

Appl. No. 10/764,278

REMARKS

The following remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed on December 9, 2005. Upon entrance of the amendments set out above, Claims 1, 3-17, 20-32, 35-47 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-5, 16-20, and 31-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ott et al. (6,121,575). Response is hereby made to this rejection. Claims 6, 7, 21, 22, 38, and 39 were objected to for depending from rejected claims, but indicated as having allowable subject matter. Claims 8-15, 23-30, and 40-47 were allowed. Applicant's thank the Examiner for allowing these claims.

The pending independent claims are 1, 8, 14, 16, 23, 29, 31, 40, and 46. Claims 1, 16, and 31 are the only independent claims not allowed. Claims 1 and 31 have been amended to require that the gain vary over the entire range. In other words, there is not 1, 2, 3 or any finite number of gains. Rather, the gain is different for each setting or wire feed speed. This is not shown in US Patent 6121575. Thus, claims 1 and 31, and their dependent claims, should be allowed.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite that there be at least three taught points for a given wire feed speed and further interpolating the gains between the at least three taught points. This is not shown in US Patent 6121575. Thus, claim 16, and its dependent claims, should be allowed.

Dependent claims 3 and 35 also have at least three taught points for a given wire feed speed and these claims are allowable for that reason alone.

Dependent claims 4 and 36 also require the gains be interpolated between the at least three taught points and these claims are allowable for that reason alone.

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Dependent claims 17 also require the gain vary over the entire range of possible wire feed speeds gains and is allowable for that reason alone.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application should be allowed. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned below if it will aid in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted



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